

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9132

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, PLOS, TD, VE

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR "OREGON II"

REF: STATE 101358

1. AT MEETING APRIL 27 ON CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR "OREGON II" MINISTRY OF EXHRNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIALS INFORMED CHARGE THAT GOTT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE PRESENCE ON THE CRUISE OF NON-TRINIDADIAN SCIENTISTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES. THE GOTT WISHED, HOWEVER, TO HAVE TWO OBSERVERS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND FISHERIES ON THE CRUISE IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE SCIENTISTS FROM UWI. CHARGE SAID THAT TWO ADDITIONAL BERTHS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOOW THIS PURPOSE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S STATEMENT THAT CRUISE WOULD TAKE PLACE PARTIALLY IN VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND THAT VENEZUELA HAD NOT TAKEN UP OFFER TO HAVE OBSERVER ON CRUISE, MINISTRY OFFICIALS ASKED IF GOV HAD GIVEN ITS CLEARANCE FOR THE CRUISE. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE EMBASSY'S FILES. TRINIDADIAN CONCERN IN THIS REGARD IS PARTICULARLY ACUTE BECAUSE OF RECENT DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY TRINIDADIAN FISHING VESSELS WITH VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES IN THE GULF OF PARIA.

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3. ON THE QUESTION OF ADVANCE PERMISSION TO PUBLISH RESULTS OF RESEARCH, CHARGE UNDERLINED PROBLEM WHICH GOTT POLICY POSED FOR US GOVERNMENT-FINANCED RESEARCH. MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE SYMPATHETIC AND SIAD THAT QUESTION WOULD REQUIRE HIGH-LEVEL DECISION. THEY PROMISED URGENT REVIEW AND REPLY WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS.

4. PLEASE SUPPLY INFORMATION ON VENEZUELAN CLEARANCE BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE REPLY. ALSO CONFIRM WHETHER VENEZUELA IN FINAL INSTANCE IS OR IS NOT SENDING OBSERVER FOR VOYAGE. ENTIRE QUESTION OF OREGON II RESEARCH IN VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AS ALLEGED IN STATE 87562 HAS BEEN CONFUSING ONE TO T&T OFFICIALS, SINCE ORIGINAL RESEARCH TRACK OF OREGON II AS CONVEYED TO GOTT DOES NOT INDICATE SUCH A ROUTE AND IT WAS NOT THE UNDERSTANDING OF TRINIDADIAN SCIENTISTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH NOAA REGARDING THE CRUISE THAT VENEZUELAN WATERS WERE INVOLVED. RICH

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